Message Text

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R 152259Z MAR 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS STATE 066998

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, OEXC, SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: "SAMUEL DENT MEMORIAL JAZZ BAND" SOVIET VISIT

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM BROOKS SMITH, LEADER OF "SAMUEL DENT MEMORIAL JAZZ BAND" CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF PERFORMING IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD IN CONJUNCTION WITH TOUR OF SWEDEN AND NORWAY IN LATE JUNE AND EARLY JULY. SMITH DESCRIBED BAND AS A SEMI-PROFESSIONAL "BUSINESSMEN'S" DIXIELAND AND TRADITIONAL JAZZ BAND. BESIDES CHICAGO HOME AREA, BAND HAS PERFORMED AT MONTREUX, HEIDELBERG, SALZBURG AND LONDON. SEVEN PIECES INCLUDE CORNET, TROMBONE, SOPRANO SAX, PIANO, DRUM, BANJO AND TUBA. GROUP HAS PLAYED TOGETHER FOR 12 YEARS. AVERAGE AGE IS 47. BAND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY WIVES. THEY HOPE TO VISIT MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD SOMETIME BETWEEN JUNE 20 AND 28, PREFERABLY ON 23 AND 24.

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2. GROUP'S PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN MEANINGFUL CONTACTS WITH RUSSIANS SUCH AS MIGHT ENSUE FROM PUBLIC PERFORMANCE OR JAM SESSION. SECONDARY INTEREST IS IN DEFRAYING EXPENSES OF TRIP, BUT GROUP WISHES TO VISIT SOVIET UNION

EVEN IF PAID PERFORMANCES NOT POSSIBLE, PROVIDED THAT SOME PERFORMING OPPORTUNITY CAN BE ARRANGED. GROUP WOULD

BE WILLING TO GIVE FREE CONCERT AT EMBASSY OR CONGEN IF ASKED.

- 3. NAVAL ATTACHE C.L. BRACKEN, WHO IS BROTHER-IN-LAW OF PIANIST, HAS SAMPLE RECORDINGS.
- 4. DEPARTMENT'S PANEL HAS NOT EVALUATED GROUP NOR DO WE HAVE ANY DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF ITS ABILITY. DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENDORSE GROUP AS APPROVED ACTIVITY COUNTING IN EXCHANGE AGREEMENT STATISTICS, EITHER WITHIN OR OUTSIDE OFFICIAL TEN.
- 5. GROUP NEEDS EARLY INDICATION OF INTEREST OR LACK THEREOF FOR ITS PLANS, THOUGH DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE COMPLETED LATER. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER EMBASSY/CONGEN SEE ANY POSSIBILITIES BASED ON ABOVE. VANCE

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TAGS: TGEN, OEXC, SCUL, UR, US, SAMUEL DENT MEMORIAL JAZZ BAND

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